

# Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center 2021 Virtual Fireside Lectures

The 2021 Fireside Series has gone virtual! Lectures will be shared on the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Facebook page, followed by a live Q&A session. For more information, check our Facebook page @MendenhallGlacierVC or call 907-789-0097.

## January 15 at 6pm AKST/10pm EST *Flying Through Time Over the Juneau Icefield: Mendenhall Glacier with Landsat Imagery from 1972 to 2020*

Glaciers in SE Alaska have been changing dramatically over the past five decades. Since 1972, the joint NASA/USGS Landsat Program has been imaging the Earth's surface with a succession of satellite sensors. Through the Earth to Sky Interagency Partnership, these images have been turned into a story of landscape change for use by the U.S. Forest Service at Mendenhall Glacier. Dr. Christopher Shuman of UMBC and the Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center will present this story.

## January 22 at 7pm AKST/9pm EST *Climbing in the Tongass National Forest*

There's a specific type of adventure seeker that finds this rugged land of forests, icefields and fjords so alluring that they are willing to climb to the heights of the tallest peaks and scale the steepest cliffs. Join USFS Wilderness Ranger Dylan Miller as he takes us on a Southeast Alaska climbing adventure, regaling us with a brief history of the sport as well as updates on the current status of climbing in the forest—and even a few tales of climbing adventures and woes.

## January 29 at 7pm AKST *Territory of the Aak'w Kwáan, Yaxté Hít (Dipper House)*

Long before the cruise ships, the oil boom, and the gold rush—the land now called Southeast Alaska was home and refuge to several indigenous societies. Since time immemorial, the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people have lived a life intricately intertwined with this rugged, beautiful and life-sustaining land. Now is your opportunity to learn from and engage with a special panel of speakers who will share with us the history of the Aak'w Kwáan, Yaxté Hít use of the Juneau area, the relationship to their homeland, and partnerships with the US Forest Service in shared stewardship of what is now Auke Recreation Area.

## February 5 at 7pm AKST *Watch and Wonder: The Listening Life of Richard K. Nelson*

Join author Hank Lentfer for an engrossing multimedia adventure as he traces noted cultural anthropologist and environmental writer Richard K. Nelson's multi-decade journey from the frozen Chukchi Sea to Southeast Alaska's rain-soaked shores—a trek that ultimately covered thousands of miles. With photos, recordings and stories, Hank will unravel his friend's discovery of Alaska's true wealth.

## February 12 at 7pm AKST *Sea Otters, Nearshore Communities, & Graduate Students: A Headfirst Dive into Fieldwork in Southeast Alaska*

Have you ever been mud crawling, eelgrass snorkeling, or crab wrangling in Southeast Alaska? Join us on a virtual exploration of marine resources and communities as three UAF graduate students share their adventures learning about the sea otters, crabs, fish, abalone, and other creatures that live off the coast of Prince of Wales Island.

## February 19 at 7pm AKST *Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier, 1903*

Filmed in Yosemite National Park and surrounding National Forests, this story brings to light the crucial role that segregated units of African American soldiers played in the survival of our public lands. Follow Yosemite Ranger Shelton Johnson as he portrays Sgt. Elizy Boman, a U.S. Ninth Cavalryman whose troop is dispatched to Yosemite National Park in 1903 to enforce park rules and regulations. Before the existence of the National Park Service or U.S. Forest Service, these soldiers served as some of the first stewards of our public lands—making them some of the first “park rangers” in the world.

## February 26 at 7pm AKST *The Hidden History of Avalanches: Using Tree-Rings to Reconstruct Avalanche Events in SE Alaska*

Snow avalanches are a hazard to humans, transportation corridors, and infrastructure in southeast Alaska—and they also act as ecological landscape-changing disturbances.

Join scientists Eran Hood of UAS and Erich Peitzsch of USGS as they present their research on using tree rings to develop an avalanche chronology for six avalanche paths in the Juneau area. This work provides insights into the frequency of large magnitude avalanches and contributory factors.

## March 5 at 7pm AKST *Understanding Ocean Acidification in Alaska: from the Gulf of Alaska to the Arctic*

Hear the latest on ocean acidification monitoring and implications for Alaska. Amanda Kelley is a researcher at the University of Alaska who studies organism-environment interactions in coastal marine ecosystems. She will outline how she uses laboratory experiments and field instruments to predict how key marine species will respond to future ocean change.

## March 12 at 7pm AKST *Learning about Sitka Black-Tailed Deer Density and Habitat Selection on Mitkof Island*

What can be learned through global positioning (GPS) collars, poop samples, and game camera photos? Join Dan Eacker with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to hear more about an ongoing pilot study of Sitka black-tailed deer on Mitkof Island. Dan also shares observations from three winters of field work including photos of bears, martin, wolverine, wolves, and other wildlife.

## March 19 at 7pm AKST *Health and Wellness Benefits of Spending Time in Nature*

Several scientific studies have suggested that spending time in nature can have significant physical and mental health benefits. During her talk, Linda Kruger will tease apart some of these studies and discuss the practice of *shinrinryoku*, or forest bathing, as a way to slow down, become present, and experience nature using all of the senses. Linda is a certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide through the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy and is currently the only certified guide in Alaska.